

Monitoring Citizen Complaints That Involve Police Response to Reports of Hate Crime

(Last Updated – March 2011)

MPD deserves credit for steps it has taken which are responsive to the issues raised in this PCB report, but not to a particular recommendation. MPD’s 2009 Annual Report describes an initiative whereby MPD’s Special Liaison Branch (SLB) has affiliate officers who receive specialized training and then continue their patrols in the field, with ongoing access to SLB resources and guidance. MPD has also repeatedly used its official publication “The Dispatch” to remind officers of the protocols for taking reports of hate crimes.

Recommendation	Status
MPD should collaborate with OPC to establish a system to monitor complaints filed with both agencies that allege inadequate police response to a report of hate crime. MPD should identify relevant complaints even where the complainants may fail to use terms such as “hate crime” or “bias crime.”	Pending. MPD previously stated that both OPC and MPD have systems and processes in place for collaboration, including a sergeant assigned as a regular liaison officer. MPD recommended that analysts from both agencies work together to collect and review current data to determine if there is a need to establish another system. MPD now reports that it is awaiting a response from OPC on the Department’s request to work together to review current data. OPC reviewed its data, identified complaints regarding police response to potential hate crimes, and forwarded the results to MPD in December 2010, and is currently awaiting MPD’s release and analysis of the data.
MPD should invite other District agencies, such as OPS (formerly DCHAPD) and OHR, to participate in the information-sharing and monitoring process. In the event patterns or trends are identified that suggest the need for corrective action, such information should be noted and brought to the attention of MPD and PCB. Further, to the extent information about these complaints appears appropriate for inclusion in the Mayor’s statutorily mandated report of bias-related crime issues, such information should be transmitted to the appropriate officials.	Adopted. MPD states that it participates in the D.C. Bias Crime Task Force, which is chaired by the United States Attorney and includes representatives from federal and local law enforcement, as well as interested community groups. One of the objectives of the Task Force is to strengthen the partnership between law enforcement and the community in preventing and responding to hate crimes. In February 2010, MPD hosted the quarterly meeting of the Task Force and invited other agencies, such as those suggested by PCB in this recommendation, to attend and discuss ways to enhance the sharing of information and training. MPD now reports that the Department submitted a report on bias-related crimes in November 2009, an update in February 2010, and in its 2009 annual report released in July 2010.
MPD should utilize the existing framework of the Fair and Inclusive Policing Task Force and the D.C. Bias Crimes Task Force to address community concerns about police responsiveness to hate crime and work with its task force partners to ensure that all constituencies covered by the D.C. Bias-Related Crimes Act receive education and outreach, particularly groups for whom hate crimes data suggest underreporting.	Adopted in part. As noted above, MPD reports that it continues to work with the D.C. Bias Crimes Task Force and states that its active participation in this group provides a way to address community concerns about hate crimes-related issues. MPD states that it does not plan to reconvene the Fair and Inclusive Policing Task Force for the purpose of addressing community concerns about hate crimes but is willing to use this task force in the future if, in its view, the need arises. MPD now reports that the Department will continue to work within the framework of task forces and committees it currently participates in to share vital information, which is reported to the Mayor’s office via MPD’s annual rep